

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated December 30, 2003. In that action, the Examiner: (1) objected to the Drawings; and (2) rejected claims 12-17, and 28-31 as allegedly anticipated by *Mollhagen*.

With this Office Action Response, Applicant amends claims 12-14 and 16, cancels claims 28-31, and presents new claims 32-34. Applicant believes the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request reconsideration.

### I. DRAWING OBJECTIONS

In response to the drawing objection, Applicant submits concurrently herewith a replacement sheet for sheet 1/5 that adds the legend "prior art." No new matter is presented in this amendment.

### II. SECTION 102 REJECTIONS

#### A. Claim 12

Claim 12 recites, "a squeeze chute mounted on the trailer, and wherein the squeeze chute remains stationary in a horizontal plane with respect to the set of wheels..." Applicant amends claim 12 to define over the system of *Mollhagen* where the squeeze chute (if present) moves in a horizontal plane relative to the *Mollhagen* wheels. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment finds support throughout the specification, and in particular in Figure 2 where the squeeze chute 26 is bounded by the offset walkway 25 and the various other fence panels. The Examiner rejected claim 12 as allegedly anticipated by *Mollhagen*.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Mollhagen* does not teach or fairly suggest the limitations of claim 12. *Mollhagen* discloses a back enclosure 3 (having an extension base 108) that telescopes into and out of the front enclosure 2. *Mollhagen* Figures 1 and 3; Col. 6, lines 23-68. A squeeze chute may be mounted on the extension base 108. *Mollhagen* Col. 7, lines 49-61. However, the extension base 108 (and anything mounted on it) telescopes with the remaining portion of the back enclosure 3 into the front enclosure 2 for relocation. *See e.g. Mollhagen* Figures 1 and 3.

By contrast, claim 12 specifically recites, "a squeeze chute mounted on the trailer, and wherein the squeeze chute remains stationary in a horizontal plane with respect to the set of wheels."

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12, and all claims which depend from claim 12 (claims 13-17 and 32), should be allowed. Applicant further amends claim 14 to make more clear that the various fence panels recited control egress after the animal exits the squeeze chute to define over the various panels of *Mollhagen* that operate on an entrance side of the *Mollhagen* squeeze chute. No new matter is presented.

### **III. NEW CLAIMS**

With this Response, Applicant presents new claims 32-34. Applicant respectfully submits that *Mollhagen* does not teach or fairly suggest the limitations of new claims 32-34. Applicant amends claims 13-14 and 16 to correct grammatical deficiencies. No new matter is presented.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

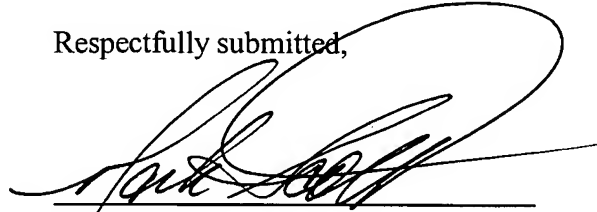
Applicant respectfully request reconsideration, allowance of the pending claims and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Appl. No. 10/622,157  
Amdt. dated February 9, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 30, 2003

If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Scott', is written over a horizontal line.

Mark E. Scott  
PTO Reg. No. 43,100  
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.  
P.O. Box 3267  
Houston, TX 77253-3267  
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)  
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)  
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT